

18 September 2003

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

www.bradford.gov.uk

(execmins.dot)

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday 18 September 2003 at City Hall Bradford

Commenced 1200
Adjourned 1245
Reconvened 1300
Adjourned 1425
Reconvened 1435
Concluded 1520

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Cooke	Green	Sunderland
Eaton	Greenwood	Ward
Hawkesworth	Amir Hussain	
Hopkins	P Thornton	

Observers: Councillors Ford and Love (Minute 66), G Miller and V Slater (Minute 67)

66. AIRE VALLEY TRANSPORT STRATEGY - RE-EVALUATION OF HISTORIC ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS

The report of the Head of Service (Major Works) (Document "AW") re-evaluated historic road construction schemes in the Shipley area in the light of the imminent opening of Bingley Relief Road. The proposals were considered in the context of current conditions and Bradford's strategic transport objectives. Schemes were ranked according to their viability as local road improvements following the proposed de-trunking of the A650/A629.

A series of Local Transport Strategy measures was identified to relieve traffic congestion and public transport delays whilst facilitating environmental improvements on existing roads. Short term improvements which could be introduced to minimise potential problems following the opening of Bingley Relief Road were also identified.

A Ward Councillor attended the meeting and spoke in opposition to the proposals that would affect the Northcliffe area. He advised that the land served the local community as a much needed and well used public open space and that it had, in fact, been left in trust to the Council for that purpose alone.

The Chair of the Friends of Northcliffe also attended and spoke in opposition to proposals affecting Northcliffe. She also stressed that the land had been intended for recreational use in perpetuity and that the Council had a responsibility to its duty as Trustee in respect of the land to protect that land.

A petition was also presented to the meeting from local residents in opposition to the proposals.

The portfolio holder reminded the meeting of the history to the traffic problems along the Aire Valley. She stressed that the options in the report had to be presented for consideration even though it was accepted that some were contentious.

A Member expressed some concern about the issue of potential conflict between the Council's role as Trustee and the duty of Executive Members to consider the transport strategy.

In response to questions in respect of the report, the Head of Service advised the meeting that the cost of the option involving a tunnel was similar to costs of other options that were recommended for abandonment. He also confirmed that any scheme involving the northern side of the valley would have a serious environmental impact. The existence of the World Heritage Site at Saltaire also meant that it was very difficult to progress a route in that vicinity.

A Member asked for further detail on the Northcliffe proposal and was informed that the plans were at a very early stage, with no precise route established as yet.

A Member expressed her concern that the transport strategy focused principally on road building. She stressed the need to widen the focus to consider other options.

Another Member stressed the need to consider the future economic viability of the valley and the major part that road traffic would continue to play in that.

Resolved –

- (1) That any further consideration at the present time of the historic road improvement proposals for the Shipley, Saltaire and North Bradford area shown on Figures 3-12 in Appendix A and described as Zero, Low and Medium Viability in Appendix B to Document "AW" be abandoned in the light of the imminent de-trunking of the A650/A629 road and the damaging impact they would have on the local environment.
- (2) That a full evaluation be undertaken of the Local Transport Strategy for the Aire Valley, including:
 - (a) junction improvements required at sites experiencing public transport delays;
 - (b) other local road improvements, enhancements to public transport, including integration, marketing information and bus priority improvements and the future development of "Park and Ride" services;
 - (c) environmental, safety and traffic calming measures on residential roads in the Nab Wood and Saltaire areas;
 - (d) possible new road construction excluding major bypasses, where these will complement other elements of the Local Transport Plan for the plan life;
 - (e) feasibility of a new railway station at Shipley and improved Park and Ride schemes at other stations.
- (3) That these evaluations should give considerable weight to measures to reduce traffic along the whole A650 corridor, improvements to public transport, measures for cyclists and pedestrians and the retention of the environment of the Northcliffe area and the World Heritage Site at Saltaire.
- (4) That the results of this evaluation be reported to the Executive prior to public consultations and a subsequent funding bid in the new Local Transport Plan in 2005.
- (5) That, in view of the past history of trunk road proposals considered but not implemented in the area, an approach be made to Government to contribute funds to the investigation and development of the Aire Valley Transport Strategy.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AREA: *Environment*

ACTION: *Transportation, Design and Planning Director*